A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, June 22. 1710.

I Endeavour'd in my last to do some Justice to the Character of a Person of Honour—Who I confess stands in as little need of any Assistance to Brighten his Fame, as most Men I know, I mean the Earl of *S-----d*—It would be ridiculous to go on with a Name, of whom I think this may be said most truly,

That He enjoys the Curse of all Mens Praise.

I am making no Court to my Lord *S-----*. The unpolish'd Author of this Paper never had the Talent of making his Court to the great Men of the Age. Besides, you see the Tables turn'd. Men Court and Write Panegyricks upon great Men when they *come in*, not when they *go out* of Places—Nor am I making any Satyr upon the Queen for changing Hands among her Servants—I am not to Examin, much less to reflect upon Circumstances. If her Majesty had not the Privilege as the thought fit, to Dismiss or Remove, Put out and Put in whom she pleased, in her Royal Household, the Queen would have less Privilege than we allow our Wives, and every Mistress of a Family would be more a Queen in that particular than her Majesty.

But the Argument, and *indeed* the End of the thing is, to examin *who makes the best Servants to her Majesty*—Those who serve with a Disinterested Generous Honesty,

Honesty, and that sees the Service rather than the Sallary; or those that prey upon their Countrey, and make Enriching themselves the End of their Graſping at publick Employments——And this being determin'd in favour of the firſt, it remains to ſearch the Parties now pretending for the Difference.

I have here given an inſtance of my Lord *S-------d*, who laying down with a ſpotleſs Reputation, refuſes, in Honour to his Countrey, a Penſion during Life of 3000 *l. per Ann.* a Penſion he might Honeſtly have accepted, being a Reward to his upright Service, and a Teſtimony from his Royal Miſtreſs, both of her Juſtice to his Merit, and her Bounty to her faithful Servant——But his Lordſhip has refuſed it, not in diſrepect to the Queen, but in regard to his Country, already Burthen'd by a heavy War——Nor is the Sum inconſiderable: A Sum, which if his Lordſhip ſhould live 40 Years, as he may very well do, muſt have brought 120000 *l.* into his Family. A Sum, nothing but a Soul untainted with Covetouſneſs, could reſiſt!

I come next to examin, as I promiſed, how far this Principle of Generoſity is become Popular; and whether it appears peculiar to any Party among us, or no—— And if to any, whether the High or Low Party poſſeſs moſt of it——I ſhall only examin one Side, and give two or three inſtances among the great Officers on the Whig-Side, and leave the other Side open for any of their Friends to fill them up if they can.

To mention our Inſtances with as much Modeſty as I can, I leave it by way of Query; and let the moſt Envious Contradict it if they can. The Perſons lye open to them—They may ſearch for Occaſion.

If it be true, as the Mighty *Bickerſtaff* has Teſtify'd of the great Manager of the Nations Treaſure, That he is ſparing of the Publick Money, and laviſh of his own.

If it be true of the firſt Manager of the Admiralty, That he has contented himſelf with an Equality to the reſt of the Commiſſioners, tho' a Sallary below his accepting, and Generouſly eaſed the Nation of 2000 *l. per Ann.* by refuſing the extraordinary Penſion.

If it be true of the Chief Officer of our Equity, That he Studies to make the Law eaſie to the Subject, by ſhortning the Proceſs, and putting every Thing in the cheapeſt Method poſſible for the Client, by refuſing Cuſtomary Preſents, New Years-Gifts, *&c.* Conſenting to receive Motions inſtead of Petitions, meerly becauſe the latter come Clogg'd with Fees to himſelf—— And upon all Occaſions parting with his Perquiſites to eaſe the People; and this to the leſſening his own Income ſeveral Thouſand Pounds *per Annum*.

If theſe Things are True, then this Generous Principle is really found among the Perſons in publick Employments *on one Side*. I do profeſs my ſelf heartily willing to give Inſtances *on the other Side*, if I knew them; but muſt Acknowledge I cannot do it. If the Gentlemen pretend to it, and will either do it themſelves, or furniſh me, I ſhall not fail to do them Juſtice; and ſhall be glad to find the Temper was become National.

The Secretary's Office is now fill'd up by her Majeſty in the Perſon of a Young Noble Man, to whoſe Character I own my ſelf a Stranger. His Lordſhip cannot take it ill, that any Man ſhould recommend the like generous Principles to his Imitation—— His Lordſhips Birth, Quality and Accompliſhments can receive no greater Addition of Honour than what will Flow from an impartial, unbiaſs'd and diſintereſted Execution of ſo high a Truſt. I am not ſuggeſting, that his Lordſhip will not behave with all that Honour, Integrity and Vigilance, that can be expected from his Quality and Character; and doubtleſs it is his Debt to the Favour of his Sovereign, and to Dignifie the Choice her Majeſty has made. But as I ſcorn to Flatter the Greateſt, any more than to injure the Leaſt, I muſt take the Freedom to Add, That a contrary Conduct muſt End in Diſhonouring himſelf, Diſobliging the Queen, and Injuring the Publick, which I make no Queſtion his Lordſhip will avoid.

MIS-

MISCELLANEA.

THIS part of our Paper muſt for a while longer Treat of our Affairs of Trade. The *Coal*-Trade, the *African*-Trade, and ſeveral others call loudly upon us, to ſearch the Grievances they Labour under, to the Bottom, and if poſſible to open the Peoples Eyes to the Follies which Oppreſs them. I confeſs, 'tis ſomething Wonderful to me, to ſee how we Act in both theſe mentioned Articles.

In the Coals, we are Oppreſſing the Maſters of Ships, Impoveriſhing the Owners, Interrupting their Trade, Starving the poor Labourers, Keelmen and Coal-Heavers, keeping Back the Quantities, raiſing the Prices, and all to Encourage, that is Deſtroy the Trade; as if, when by theſe Abſurdities, we had ruin'd the Trade, raiſed the Prices, and put it into the Power of a few Devourers to play upon us, *We our ſelves* were not to be the *Dupes*, the Cullies that muſt pay for all.

In the *African* Trade we have been Aſſaulting the Company, Inſulting their Conduct, Seizing their Effects, Tying up their Hands from Trade, Preventing their Trade, Bantring their Forts and Caſtles, Undervaluing their Settlements, and in ſhort laying them open to the Neceſſity of Dying by a Languiſhing Conſumption; and all this, as if the Decreaſe of the Company would be no blow to the Trade; while no other Eſtabliſhment was Erected to preſerve it.——And as if the Nation would ſuffer no Loſs by the Ruin of the beſt Trade in its Degree, that belongs to it.

The keeping the Trade from falling into the Hands of the *Dutch*, who juſtly Rejoice at theſe falſe Steps, the ſupplying the *Engliſh* Plantations with Negroes; the keeping thoſe Negroes at a moderate, a ſetled, and a ſtated Price; the preſerving and keeping up the Forts and Caſtles upon the Coaſt of *Africk* as Eſſential to the Trade; the Juſtice to the preſent Company in not violently ſeizing their Property without a valuable Conſideration——The not pretending to inſiſt upon the Eſtabliſhing the preſent Company, but the Erecting ſuch a Company as may be capable effectually to Secure and Preſerve the Trade for the publick Good——Theſe have been all Points ſo diſtinctly handled by others, as well as by me, ſo Learnedly Pleaded, and ſo Weakly Defended at the Bar of the Houſe of Commons, that one would wonder the Eyes of the Nation ſhould not be open'd by it; and a Man would be ready to conclude, That either the Company's Caſe muſt be ſpoun'd, and the Trade immediately ſetled, or that this Nation is not any more to be prevail'd upon in any Caſe by the Power of Reaſoning, nor capable of receiving Impreſſions for for their Intereſt; but are intirely led by Humour, charm'd by Clamour, and enclin'd by Nature to ſhut the Eyes of their Underſtanding againſt their greateſt Advantages.

I ſhall therefore, leaving the abovemention'd Points, as what have been thoroughly Debated, and if I do return to any of them, ſpeak to them as things you only want to be reminded of; and ſhall apply my ſelf to upbraid you a little with Injuſtice, as well as Ignorance, and to urge the Neceſſity of your taking immediate Care of this Matter, from three Articles,

1. *Juſtice to the Creditors of the African* Company, who are People that Claim your Concern; and whoſe Debts appear to be made Deſperate, not from the Incapacity of the Company to pay them, *if they had juſtice done them, and were at Liberty to make the beſt of their Effects, as they ought to be*; nor from any unwillingneſs in the Company to make them full Satisfaction; but from (1.) the unjuſt and unreaſonable War againſt the Company, which has ſhaken their Credit, ſtopp'd and interrupted their Commerce, and weakened

ned their Hands. And, (2.) Want of Agreement and Unanimity among the Creditors themselves, who had they Acted as a Body, and come to such Measures for accepting Payment by just Equalities, without undue Preferences, *and the like*, might have set their helping Hands to the Payment of their own Debts, according to that wise Maxim in Trade, *This the Creditor only can make a Bankrupt Debtor able to Pay him*: And here perhaps I may venture to shew them, how they may still do so. *This is a large Field, and will require some Ink and Paper to go thro' it.*

2. *Justice to the Nation*, To whom the *African* Trade is too valuable a Jewel to be thus Shuttlecock'd about from Hand to Hand, 'till it will infallibly drop between the Hands that Play with it in so foolish a Manner; and which when once lost, can never be recover'd by all the Art or Industry in the World——Unless this Head I shall of Necessity lay open a little more largely than has hitherto been done, (1.) The real Value of this Trade, and the particular Heads which render it Profitable and Glorious to this Nation more than any Trade of its Degree, we are concern'd in. (2.) The vast Encrease and Improvement it is capable of, yet at the same time without Encroachment upon any other Branch of our Trade. (3.) The absolute Necessity there is for preserving this Trade, and the Impossibility of our carrying on the other most Flourishing Trades without it. (4.) The Disadvantages we shall lye under to our Neighbours, if we suffer this Trade to fall into their Hands.

3. *Justice to the present Company*, whom hitherto we Condemn without a Tryal, Indict without a Crime, and Plunder without Capitulation——Who we Ruin without Advantage to our selves, and Destroy to Gratifie no Body but our Enemies.

If the Consequence of this should be to shew that we are in some respects, not Personally, but even Nationally, as far as respects Trade, the most obstinate, blind, and infatuated People in the World, the fault will be your own, not mine; and the power of preventing is also your own.

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